

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. Claims 18-23 have been withdrawn from consideration. In the Final Office Action mailed October 31, 2006, the Examiner took the following action: (1) rejected claims 1-13 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Osder (U.S. 5,678,786); (2) rejected claims 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Osder in view of Board (6,351,713). Applicants hereby amend claim 1. Support for this amendment is on page 4, paragraph 1, lines 5-6 and 9-12, of the specification. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above-proposed amendment, as well as reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

I. Examiner Interview

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the time spent on the telephone on December 7, 2006, discussing the disposition of this case with Applicants' representative. During the discussion, applicants and the Examiner discussed the rejections, the merits of the cited art, and claim modifications that would receive favorable treatment by the Examiner. An agreement was reached between the Examiner and the applicants that the foregoing claim amendment is supported by the specification.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Osder (U.S. 5,678,786)

Osder teaches the detection of swashplate actuator failures and the lock and measurement of the swashplates once the failure is detected. (3:30-33). The inputted commanded swashplate collective position, commanded swashplate x-axis rotational position, and commanded swashplate y-axis rotational position are then passed to a failure-mode control matrix. (4:8-24).

The failure-mode control matrix computes swashplate actuator commanded position for the two operable swashplate actuators so that aircraft attitude control is maintained. (4:20-51).

Claims 1-13 and 16-17

Claims 1-13 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Osder. Claims 2-13 and 16-17 depend from claim 1. Claim 1, as amended, recites:

1. A method of operating a product, comprising:
monitoring a first diagnostic information of a component of the product,
monitoring a second diagnostic information of a system of the product, the system including the component, wherein the second diagnostic information does not include the first diagnostic information;
combining the first diagnostic information of the component and the second diagnostic information of the system; and
based at least partially on the combined first and second diagnostic information, reconfiguring at least one of the component and the system.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections, and submit the claims are allowable over Osder for the reasons explained in detail below.

Specifically, Osder teaches a helicopter control system that only monitors a first swashplate actuator component, a second swashplate actuator component, and a third swashplate actuator component. (3:21-25). In other words, Osder does not teach monitoring a helicopter control system based on information from sources other than the three swashplate actuators. As a result, Osder does not teach, as recited in claim 1, “monitoring a second diagnostic information of a *system* of the product, the system including the component, *wherein the second diagnostic information does not include the first diagnostic information.*” (emphasis added).

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the cited reference to Osder does not teach the method recited in claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is allowable over Osder. Furthermore, because

claims 2-13 and 16-17 depend from claim 1, they are also allowable for at least the same reason that claim 1 is allowable, as well as for additional limitations recited in each claims.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Board (U.S. 6,351,713)

Board teaches a distributed stress wave analysis system for detecting structure borne sounds caused by friction. (2:40-42). The detected information is processed using feature extraction and neural network artificial intelligence software. (2:42-44). The system consists of stress wave sensors, interconnect cables, and preferably three modules: (1) distributed processing units, (2) maintenance advisory panel, and (3) laptop computer. (2:44-47).

Claims 14-15

Claims 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Osder in view of Board. Claims 14-15 depend from claim 1. Claims in dependent form include all the limitations of the independent claim from which they depend. MPEP §608.01(i). Claim 1, as amended, recites:

1. A method of operating a product, comprising:
monitoring a first diagnostic information of a component of the product,
monitoring a second diagnostic information of a system of the product,
the system including the component, wherein the second diagnostic information does not include the first diagnostic information;
combining the first diagnostic information of the component and the second diagnostic information of the system; and
based at least partially on the combined first and second diagnostic information, reconfiguring at least one of the component and the system.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of the cited references to Osder and Board, either individually or in combination, fails to disclose, teach, or fairly suggest the method recited in claim 1. First, applicants respectfully incorporate the argument presented in response to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and reassert that Osder does not teach the method of operating a product as recited in claim 1.

Moreover, the deficiencies of Osder are not remedied by the teachings of Board. Board teaches a system for detecting structure borne caused by friction, wherein the system includes an adjustable data fusion architecture to optimize indication thresholds, maximize fault detection probability, and minimize false alarms. (3:1-3). However, Board does not teach “monitoring a second diagnostic information of a system of the product, the system including the component, *wherein the second diagnostic information does not include the first diagnostic information,*” as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit each of the cited references to Osder and Board, whether individually or in combination, does not disclose, teach or fairly suggest the method recited in claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is allowable over the cited references. Furthermore, since claims 14-15 depend from claim 1, they are also allowable over the cited references for at least the same reason claim 1 is allowable, as well as for additional limitations recited in those claims.

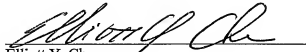
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the above-proposed amendments be entered and that pending claims 1-17 be allowed. If there are any remaining matters that may be handled by telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 12/20/06

By:



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